

"Arrighi," Natchez, Mississippi.

Adams Co.

HABS No. 17 - 9

HABS
Miss.

1 - NATCH

- 5 -

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 17

Historic American Buildings Survey
A. Hays Town, District Officer
Standard Life Building
Jackson, Mississippi

HABS
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1- NATCH
5-

ARRIGHI
219-221 Main Street
Natchez, Adams County
Mississippi

Owner: Mrs. Arrighi.

Date of Erection: 1790 or earlier (see drawings); probably 1790 (see following page); before 1809 (index card).

Architect and Builder: No record.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: Two.

Materials of Construction: Brick; some stucco.

Other Existing Records: See text.

Additional Data: See following pages.

A R R I G H I

Main Street Natchez Adams County Mississippi

This old store building, one of the earliest commercial buildings in Natchez, probably dates even as far back as 1790, but exact proof is lacking. The first mention of the place is in a marriage contract between Julianna Stacpoole, widow of Maurice Stacpoole, and Francis Reed: "Julianna secured to herself the retention of all rights to her property." This contract was signed the 29th day of January, 1806. In searching earlier records the will of Maurice Stacpoole, a merchant of the Port and City of Natchez is found. Stacpoole made a bequest of one thousand silver dollars to his beloved wife "Julianna" and nothing more. The greater part of his considerable estate being willed to "his beloved brother, Pierce Stacpoole, near Dublin in the Kingdom of Ireland. From this we learn that Julianna either inherited this building from her parents or from a former husband. No hint of her maiden name appears, and a search of Spanish translation fails to throw light on the subject.

The oft wedded Julianna died very soon after her marriage to Reed, as the next record found is an agreement between her heirs. Reference is made to a marriage settlement made by the deceased, and her property, consisting of almost an entire block of business houses, was divided into three equal parts between Francis Reed, Sarah Brown and Catherine Brown. One of the buildings alluded to adjoined that owned and occupied by Postlethwaite and Shipp, a rich and influential firm of early days.

The middle building was awarded to Sarah Brown in 1807, following which sales or exchanges are recorded for "a number of years." From records of 1819 the property passed from Sarah Brown to Catherine (Brown) Townsend, and thence to Samuel Butler, who transferred it to James McReynolds, always being described as "all and every messuage in Lot No. 3 in Square 4."

.About ninety years ago Mr. James Hughes bought the building and left it to a daughter, Bridget, who married a Mr. Arrighi. The building is now owned by the Arrighi heirs.

Compiled from data of
Stuart Outhbertson
Mrs. Wyatt Moore
Mrs. Balfour Miller

A R R I G H I

"Arrighi", a Spanish colonial store building, perhaps one of the very earliest commercial buildings of Mississippi still in existence, is a particularly satisfying type, deriving much of its interest from its functional simplicity.

The ground floor was designed for a store, while the upper floors were intended as living quarters, which arrangement is evidenced even from the appearance of the street facade. There are three openings on the ground floor, one a display window, the center one the store entrance, and the other an entrance door leading to the unpretentious but refined stairway of the living quarters. Each opening is flanked by wood Doric pilasters planted on the stuccoed brick wall. Capping the pilasters is a wood cornice above which is a balcony with delicate Spanish hand-wrought iron railing, supported by wrought brackets.

The doorway giving access from the living quarters to the balcony is a simple central motif of splendid proportion and detail, unusually large with its side lights down to the window sill level, and the elliptical fan light with slender wood muntins. There is a twenty-four light window on each side in line above the openings of the first story. The walls of the second story are brick and are very much higher than the story below.

The roof is a pitched wood shingle (originally slate) roof, broken by two large dormers of simple detail, and stopped on the gable ends by parapet walls of the same pitch, flush continuations of the side walls.

.There is nothing unusual or especially interesting on the interior. The floors are wood, the walls are all plastered, the partitions are wood studs with plaster on wood lath. There are several original mantels, very similar in detail to other houses built during the Spanish Dominion.